

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**June 30, 2010, 4:30p.m.
Cal Brand Meeting Hall**

PRESENT	ABSENT
Trena Carter	Akua B. Agyei
Ian Kohen	Rhea Baker-Ipek
Greg Lewis	John Stroh
Tony McClendon	Rosalind Pegram
Gil Palmer	
Shiva Rallapalli	
John Roberts	

Meeting Called to Order

STAFF PRESENT:

Director Arlette Cooper Tinsley and Secretary Lula Young.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Commissioner Roberts called roll and requested any corrections or amendments to the April 2010 minutes.

Commissioner Carter moved to accept the April 28, 2010 minutes as submitted. Commissioner McClendon seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Carter reported the Donations Account balance as \$6,744.41 as of 6/25/2010; after calculating annual dinner revenue and expenses, \$300.39 is the estimated cost to the Commission.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

No report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Tinsley reported that staff activities included accepting complaints involving disability in housing, disability in employment and preparing cases for chairperson review. In conjunction with the housing complaint, the chairperson and commission attorney were put on notice that there was the potential that a restraining order may be required to prevent a court-ordered eviction which was ultimately not required.

The Director provided Commissioners with a copy of the proposed 2011 budget and requested their review and approval prior to her submission of the budget to the mayor. She provided Commissioners with an overview of the budget challenges and directions for the 2011 calendar year. She continued by explaining that the Commission's budget is part of the Mayor's overall city budget. After providing an overview of the current directions, discussion ensued. Director Tinsley asked Commissioners to review the budget for approval and submission to the Mayor.

Commissioner Kohen moved to approve the 2011 budget as presented to the Mayor. Commissioner Roberts seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Tinsley informed Commissioners that she was scheduled to present both the Human Resources and Human Rights Commission budgets on Tuesday, August 3rd, beginning at 2:00 PM. She asked the Commissioners that would be attending, to verify their preferred method of contact for that day in the event of any time changes for the budget presentation.

OPEN FORUM:

Ivy Tech Update: Commissioner Roberts announced that the Ivy Tech State Board of Trustees had their meeting for the state board at Ivy Tech Columbus. He advised that Ivy Tech Columbus is in the top five in the college building group. He hopes the Columbus campus will have priority with the Ivy Tech Foundation with capital projects as the Columbus campus has the highest enrollment and there is no more room.

Commissioner Roberts advised that the Franklin campus is going to a tier 1 campus which means Franklin has been approved by the Council on Higher Education to move to degree granting status. Franklin will be its own degree-granting site for Ivy tech.

On a personnel note, Commissioner Roberts informed the Commission that Eloise Lewis is now the Dean of the School of Nursing for Ivy Tech Columbus/Franklin. The change is system-wide and the school of nursing has been pulled out of the school of health sciences. Dr. Tabitha Hardy recently defended her Ph.D. successfully and has been hired for the summer to teach microbiology.

Bartholomew County Literacy Task Force: Director Tinsley asked Commissioners if they would like to again participate in the Literacy Task Force spelling bee for 2010. Commissioners Lewis, Roberts, Rallapalli and Palmer volunteered to again form a team.

Community Presentation: Director Tinsley announced a July 6, 2010 presentation, "How to be a Gay-Friendly Employer" and advised that she would send out additional information.

Cyber-Bullying: Commissioner Roberts requested assistance in distributing the New York Times article on Cyber-Bullying. Discussion ensued regarding the prevalence of cyber-bullying especially in middle schools.

Parent University: Chairperson Palmer provided an update on the Parent University kick-off that was held the previous month. He reported very low participant numbers for the event even after planners received RSVPs indicating a large turnout three days prior to the event. Discussion ensued.

OTHER BUSINESS – Ad Hoc Committee Update:

Commissioner Rallapalli reported that the committee recently met with Deputy Director Smith who provided a road map of what the committee should be doing. He went on to provide a time line of the committee's goals.

He advised that the committee will research hate crimes and get information on what other boards are doing and develop correlating graphs. By late July or August, they will have a skeleton plan. Their next step will be to contact both the police chief and sheriff to get their perspectives. Commissioner Rallapalli advised that the exact date of an October meeting will be sent out. The Committee will share their final draft with community stakeholders at that meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS – Annual Dinner Wrap Up:

Director Tinsley provided Commissioners with an overview of the annual dinner wrap-up report and financial breakdown of the annual dinner expenses including the financial status of the

Commission. She reminded Commissioners that dinner expenses included the cost of tickets for the student contest winner, parents and teacher to attend the dinner and due to budget cuts, the mayor is no longer able to sponsor the winners as in previous years. She informed Commissioners of a \$100 donation from Herb and Barbara Hoover that reduced the overall loss to \$308.29.

Director Tinsley asked Commissioners to think about ticket prices since the commission cannot solicit donations. To do so, a separate fund, such as 'Friends of the Columbus Human Rights Commission' would have to be formed through the Heritage Fund, rather than a non-profit, then that group could solicit donations. Discussion ensued.

Director Tinsley went on to inform Commissioners of the surveys received from the annual dinner and advised that charts comparing the 2009 and 2010 dinner would be provided at the July meeting. Discussion on increasing the survey responses ensued.

LIAISON UPDATE – INTERFAITH FORUM COLUMBUS (IFC):

Commissioner Lewis announced that he was unable to attend the last IFC meeting and there is no August meeting.

He advised that the May 16th Sacred Ceremony that focused on Islam was facilitated by Yassir Bhatti of the Pakistani group. Christine Lemley did advise that it was a lovely event. He would like to see a connection between IFC and CAMEO.

Unofficial meeting continued with the departure of Commissioner Lewis.

LIAISON UPDATE – PRIDE ALLIANCE COLUMBUS (PAC):

Commissioner Kohen advised he attended the last PAC meeting. Members are moving forward with an activity at Cummins and other preparations for Gay Pride week.

He informed Commissioners that Sondra Bolte resigned as PAC president and Rhonda Fischer is now president. He also advised there was no conversation about the Commission's Rules and Regulations.

LEGAL UPDATE:

Chairperson Palmer inquired about the status of the Bethesda House Department of Justice (DOJ) complaint. Director Tinsley advised that the complaint was settled between the DOJ and the City of Columbus. Discussion ensued.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned.